

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON 2010 NATIONAL COMMUNITY RADIO CONFERENCE

Background

The Nigeria Community Radio Coalition (NCRC) was formed in 2005 to sensitize and mobilize stakeholders and heighten advocacy to address the yawning gaps in the Nigerian broadcasting systems that were and are still undermining democratic participation and efforts at national development.

In keeping with the vision of the Coalition and as a follow up to discussions and resolutions of the stakeholders' conference held in Makurdi in November 2009, the Secretariat of the Coalition set up a six-person Committee to make recommendations that will lead to successful hosting of the national conference on community radio in 2010. The members of the committee are:

1. Omoniyi Ibietan, Nigerian Communications Commission, Abuja (Chair)
2. Ms. Ifeoma Dunu, Nnamdi Azikwe University, Awka (Member)
3. Mr. Tari Dadiowei, Bayelsa (Member)
4. Mr. Gafar Ajao, Kano (Member)
5. Mallam Mohammed Danburam, Taraba (Member)
6. Ms. Seember Nyager, Kaduna (Member)

Introduction

The proposed national conference for the year 2010, though the third in the series, is coming at a very auspicious moment considering that the nation is again preparing for another general election in 2011. Our Coalition needs to deepen the gains of the past years and also aim to use the proposed conference to bring a critical phase of our advocacy to a closure. Here, we refer to the phase that seeks to get the Federal Government to issue a concrete policy statement on the establishment of community radio. The upcoming conference therefore requires a heavier attendance than any programme we ever organized. We should quickly put in place quickly achievable work target that will ensure an unprecedented heavy attendance of policy makers from the executive, legislative and regulatory agencies as well as a profound participation of international partners and other stakeholders.

Venue

Following from the foregoing, venue for the forthcoming national conference is very critical. Considering the nature of the audience we require for the conference, we require a venue that is easily assessable to all participants both local and international, and of course where we can easily source

accommodation and other facilities and equipment for the conference. Against this background, we recommend Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, as the city where the 2010 National Conference on Community Radio should take place. Detailed proposal on hotel and rates will be sent to the Secretariat shortly for a concrete decision to be taken.

Participation

Our committee expects that participation will be drawn mainly from the recommendations that will be approved from the Edet Ojo Committee on Membership. However, priority should be given to full members of the coalition, partners of the coalition e.g. PIWA, CM Solutions, OSIWA, AMARC etc., representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAS) of Government, the media, the legislature, regulatory agencies etc.

Accommodation and other logistics

The search for affordable hotel and other places of accommodation will be concluded shortly and forwarded. We are yet to conclude this because we need the coalition to agree with the proposal before taking a concrete position. The choice of date is the reason the committee could not take a decision on this. However, we have initiated discussions with some hoteliers.

Resource Generation

Various sources should be used for resource generation. We suggest the following among others:

1. Support from donors
2. Request to various organisations (Some telecoms operators have been invited to tomorrow's programme, we should explore the possibility of getting those who will honour our request to sponsor aspects of the programme and we should also follow up with those who may not be able to attend the policy dialogue).
3. Some categories of participants should contribute part of the cost of attendance or full sponsorship.

Planning

A local Organising Committee (LOC) should be set up at least six months to the event. Majority of the members of the LOC should be based in Abuja. Concrete planning should take off immediately. People should also register to participate.